

ABSTRACT

TOP SEPARATOR FOR GAS PHASE AND HYDRAULIC PHASE  
CONTINUOUS DIGESTERS AND METHOD FOR CONVERTING DIGESTER

A continuous digester for producing chemical cellulose pulp from cellulose chips including: a digester vessel with an upper section attached to a top separator and said vessel at least partially filled with the cellulose chips and a liquor; a top separator at least partially in said upper section having a lower chip inlet port, a chip conveyor, a screen adjacent the conveyor, an upper chip discharge chute, and a liquor outlet facing a side of the screen opposite to the conveyor, and a chip inlet conduit extending into the vessel and having a first operational mode in fluid communication with the chip inlet port and a second operational mode in which the chip inlet conduit discharges directly into the vessel.